

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A high quality, ready-to-drink, uncultured nutritional beverage comprising (1) a protein component comprising minimally processed milk protein; (2) an emulsified fat component comprising dairy fat; (3) a fortification component comprising vitamins and minerals; and (4) water; wherein the beverage contains about 1.5 to 10 percent total protein and about 0.15 to about 5 percent total fat; wherein the beverage has a first ratio of the minimally processed milk protein divided by the total protein and wherein the first ratio is greater than or equal to about 0.45; wherein the beverage has a second ratio of the dairy fat divided by the total fat and wherein the second ratio is greater than or equal to 0.33; and wherein the fortification component provides at least 10 percent of the daily value per single beverage serving of at least 6 vitamins and minerals.

2. The beverage as defined in claim 1, wherein the first ratio is greater than about 0.65 and the second ratio is greater than about 0.67.

3. The beverage as defined in claim 1, wherein the first ratio is about 0.8 to about 1 and the second ratio is about 0.9 to about 1.

4. The beverage as defined in claim 1, wherein the total protein is about 1.5 to about 6 percent and the total fat is about 0.5 to about 3.5 percent.

5. The beverage as defined in claim 4 further comprising about 0.001 to about 15 percent of a sweetener component.

6. The beverage as defined in claim 5, wherein the total protein is about 2 to about 4.5 percent and the sweetener component is present at about 0.003 to about 12 percent.

7. The beverage as defined in claim 1, wherein the fortification component provides at least about 20 percent of the daily value per single beverage serving of at least 10 vitamins and minerals.

8. The beverage as defined in claim 3, wherein the fortification component provides at least about 20 percent of the daily value per single beverage serving of at least 10 vitamins and minerals.

9. The beverage as defined in claim 6, wherein the fortification component provides at least about 20 percent of the daily value per single beverage serving of at least 10 vitamins and minerals.

10. A high quality, ready-to-drink, uncultured nutritional beverage comprising (1) a protein component comprising minimally processed milk protein, dairy protein concentrate, and non-dairy protein; (2) an emulsified fat component comprising dairy fat and non-dairy fat; (3) a fortification component comprising vitamins and minerals; (4) water; wherein the beverage contains about 1.5 to about 10 percent total protein and about 0.15 to about 5 percent total fat; wherein the beverage has a first ratio of the minimally processed milk protein divided by the total protein and wherein the first ratio is greater than or equal to about 0.45; wherein the beverage has a second ratio of the dairy fat divided by the total fat and wherein the second ratio is greater than or equal to 0.33; and wherein the fortification component provides at least 10 percent of the daily value per single beverage serving of at least 6 vitamins and minerals.

11. The beverage as defined in claim 10 further comprising a sweetener component.

12. The beverage as defined in claim 10, wherein the first ratio is greater than about 0.65 and the second ratio is greater than about 0.67.

13. The beverage as defined in claim 11, wherein the first ratio is greater than about 0.65 and the second ratio is greater than about 0.67.

14. The beverage as defined in claim 12, wherein the first ratio is greater than about 0.8 and the second ratio is greater than about 0.9.

15. The beverage as defined in claim 13, wherein the first ratio is greater than about 0.8 and the second ratio is greater than about 0.9.

16. The beverage as defined in claim 10, wherein the total protein is about 1.5 to about 6 percent and the total fat component is about 0.5 to about 3.5 percent.

17. The beverage as defined in claim 11, wherein the total protein is about 1.5 to about 6 percent, the total fat is about 0.5 to about 3.5 percent, and the sweetener component is present at about 0.001 to about 15 percent.

18. The beverage as defined in claim 10, wherein the fortification component provides at least about 20 percent of the daily value per single beverage serving of at least 10 vitamins and minerals.

19. The beverage as defined in claim 16, wherein the fortification component provides at least about 20 percent of the daily value per single beverage serving of at least 10 vitamins and minerals.

20. The beverage as defined in claim 17, wherein the fortification component provides at least about 20 percent of the daily value per single beverage serving of at least 10 vitamins and minerals.